

# WINGSPREAD

## Friendly farewell

Airman 1st Class Jennifer Anderson (right), Air Force Occupational Measurement Squadron, hugs her friend Airman 1st Class Tasha McGarrah, 12th Aeromedical Dental Squadron, goodbye before boarding a bus to Lackland Air Force Base for a flight out of San Antonio. Airman Anderson is deploying to support operations overseas. Ten other Randolph members also departed Tuesday. Since the beginning of January, 64 people from Randolph have deployed. (Photo by Steve White)



# Flu vaccine mandatory for active duty



Tech. Sgt. Christine Tindal receives the FluMist nasal spray at the immunization clinic. (Photo by Jennifer Valentin)

By Jennifer Valentin  
Wingspread staff writer

It's the middle of January and flu season is here. Officials in the 12th Medical Group want Randolph members to be informed about the status of flu vaccinations and how to alleviate contracting the virus.

"Flu vaccination is mandatory for active duty members, and they have top priority," said Capt. Philip Kemp, chief of public health. "FluMist is an intra-nasal spray vaccine for healthy people who are between the ages of 5-49 and not pregnant."

Active duty over the age of 49, or who have certain long-term medical conditions, or live with someone who has a severely weakened immune system, will receive the injectable vaccine.

The base immunization clinic has ordered 2,500 doses of FluMist, which are expected to arrive before the middle of next week, said Captain Kemp.

"We have enough FluMist available for active duty, and we may have some left over for others who wish to take it as well," said the captain. "Unfortunately, we don't know exactly when we will be done giving the active duty members their FluMist."

Another factor with the FluMist is that it can't be given

after Feb. 8. Any beneficiary interested in receiving FluMist should call the immunization clinic after Feb. 5 to inquire about its availability.

With that in mind, the clinic offers advice on how to avoid getting sick during the remainder of the flu season.

Since the flu is spread by droplets, it can be transferred from person to person by coughing and sneezing, and transmitted on contact surfaces such as phones and keyboards.

For safe hygiene practices, people should:

- wash hands often with soap and warm water; if not available use waterless hand sanitizer
- cover mouth when coughing or sneezing, preferably with a disposable tissue, then wash hands afterward
- wash hands before and after using public items such as telephones, copiers and computers
- avoid touching eyes, nose or mouth, or wash hands after doing so
- avoid close contact with others who may be sick
- keep the body healthy by getting adequate rest and fluids

"If you do become sick with the flu, especially if accompanied by a fever, the best thing to do is stay home and avoid others," said Captain Kemp.

## 12th FLYING TRAINING WING TRAINING TIMELINE

As of Monday			Navigator, EWO training				Wing Flying Hour Program			
Squadron	Senior Class	Overall	562nd FTS	563rd FTS			Aircraft	Required	Flown	Annual
99th FTS	2.0	0.6	Air Force 297	Undergraduate	44		T-1A	3304.7	3271.7	12,184
558th FTS	-4.9	-3.9	Navy 87	International	0		T-6A	4705.6	4947.7	17,290
559th FTS	-2.9	-2.7	International 0	EWC Course	7		T-37B	2531.6	2582.0	8,284
560th FTS	-3.9	-1.9	NIFT 18	Fundamentals	0		T-38C	2598.4	2835.8	9,729
							T-43	1148.5	1178.2	4,293

Numbers reflect days ahead or behind for senior pilot instructor training class and an average for all PIT classes currently in training.

Numbers reflect students currently in training. The 562nd shows source of navigator students. Air Force students include Air Force Reserve and Air National Guard. The 563rd indicates students in specific courses.

The required and flown numbers reflect hours flown between Oct. 1, 2004 to date. The annual numbers are total hours for fiscal year 2005.

## Technology Expos Tuesday



see pg. 15 for details



AIR AND SPACE  
EXPEDITIONARY  
FORCE

As of Monday, 110 Team  
Randolph members are  
deployed in support of  
military operations around  
the globe.

The Randolph  
WINGSPREAD

- 12th Flying Training Wing  
Editorial Staff**  
**Col. John Hesterman**  
Commander  
**Col. George Duda**  
Vice Commander  
**Capt. Paul Villagran**  
Chief of Public Affairs  
**Mike Briggs**  
Chief of News and Information  
**1st Lt. LaShonda Bush**  
Editor
- Prime Time Military Newspaper  
Contract Staff**  
**Jennifer Valentin**  
Staff Writer  
**Bob Hieronymus**  
Staff Writer  
**Maggie Armstrong**  
Graphic Designer

**Wingspread office:**  
1 Washington Circle, Suite 4  
Randolph AFB, Texas 78150  
Phone: (210) 652-5760  
Fax: (210) 652-5412

**Wingspread Advertisements:**  
Prime Time Military Newspapers  
7137 Military Drive West  
San Antonio, Texas 78227  
Phone: (210) 675-4500  
Fax: (210) 675-4577

**Wingspread online:**  
[www.randolph.af.mil/12ftw/wing/pa/wingspread.htm](http://www.randolph.af.mil/12ftw/wing/pa/wingspread.htm)

This paper is published by Prime Time Military Newspapers, a private firm in no way connected with the U.S. Air Force, under exclusive written contract with Randolph AFB, Texas. This commercial enterprise Air Force newspaper is an authorized publication for members of the U.S. military services. Contents of the Wingspread are not necessarily the official views of, or endorsed by, the U.S. Government, the Department of Defense, or the Department of the Air Force.

The appearance of advertising in this publication, including inserts or supplements, does not constitute endorsement by the Department of Defense, the Department of the Air Force, or Prime Time Military Newspapers of the products or services advertised.

Everything advertised in this publication shall be made available for purchase, use or patronage without regard to the race, color, religion, sex, national origin, age, marital status, physical or mental handicap, political affiliation, or any other non-merit factor of the purchaser, user, or patron.

Editorial content is edited, prepared and provided by the Public Affairs Division of the 12th Flying Training Wing in accordance with local policy and style guidance. All photos, unless otherwise indicated, are U.S. Air Force photos.

Articles for the newspaper should be submitted by noon Thursday the week prior to the desired publication date. Items can be dropped off on a PC- or Macintosh-formatted disk at the Wingspread office in room 110 of Building 100.

Articles may also be sent by e-mail to [wingspread@randolph.af.mil](mailto:wingspread@randolph.af.mil) or by fax at 652-5412 or base ext. 7-5412.

For more information about submissions, call 652-5760 or base ext. 7-5760.

Commander’s Action Line

Call 652-5149 or e-mail  
[randolph.actionline@randolph.af.mil](mailto:randolph.actionline@randolph.af.mil)



While our goal is to provide the best programs, products and services to our customers, there will be instances when people believe we could have served them better.

In those cases, I ask the individual to first contact the responsible organization to allow the unit commander or manager an opportunity to ensure professional and impartial treatment.

When those officials are unable to provide satisfaction, the individual may contact me through the Action Line. I will ensure each Action Line call is looked into and a reply is given by telephone or in writing. I ask callers to include their name and telephone number so we may send a personal response.

**Col. John Hesterman**  
12th Flying Training Wing commander

Agency contact numbers	
12th FTW IG	652-2727
12th FTW Legal Office	652-6781
Base Exchange	674-8917
Civil Engineers	652-2401
Civilian Pay	652-6480
Commissary	652-5102
EEO Complaints	652-3749
Equal Opportunity	652-4376
FW&A Hotline	652-3665
Housing Maintenance	652-1856
Military Pay	652-1851
Randolph Clinic	652-2933
Safety Office	652-2224
Security Forces	652-5509
Services	652-5971
Straight Talk	652-7469
Transportation	652-4314

Chaplain recalls honoring fallen

By Chaplain (Maj.) Shane Gaster  
509th Bomb Wing

WHITEMAN AIR FORCE BASE, Mo. – The telephone in the chapel tent at Camp Sather, the Air Force contingent at Baghdad Internal Airport, rang a little after 9 p.m. It was someone from the U.S. Army mortuary affairs team. When mortuary affairs called, it was generally to cover a fallen U.S. Soldier, Airman, Marine, Sailor, defense contractor or other member of the coalition force.

I had been in the country less than a month and had already done 40 of these, but the event that night warranted deeper reflection. I wrote it in my journal because I was talking to myself about it, and sometimes I needed to talk to myself. We all do.

At BIAP, aircraft taxi, land, and take off without lights; the airfield is deliberately kept dark. I responded that night, along with my chaplain assistant, Airman 1st Class Marco AVECILLA, to the C-130 Hercules that had just

taxied in. As it approached, we could see a dim light emanating from the cargo hold; it was just enough illumination to allow the loadmaster and crew to see their way around inside.

Air Force honor guard members were assembling; they were Airmen assigned to Camp Sather, who generally worked 10-12 hours a day, six to seven days a week, but volunteered to do additional duty as members of the honor guard. They wore the desert cammies for these formations. Underneath the body armor, we were all suffocating from the heat.

The air expeditionary group deputy commander was out at the aircraft along with the command chief master sergeant. They had already made the walk out from the Glass House, one of only two hardened buildings on Camp Sather. The Glass House once served as a building where Saddam Hussein’s distinguished visitors were greeted, but was now home to the command section.

Also at the aircraft were the troops from the ramp section.

Airman AVECILLA and I, along with the others, gathered at the back of the aircraft to wait. The rear door was raised, and the ramps down and in place; we whispered quietly to each other, until, off in the distance, we could see the silhouette of mortuary affairs’ five-ton truck approaching.

The MA team clearly has one of the most stressful, but most sacred duties there as they receive the casualties and prepare them for the first leg of their journey home. The casualties’ families and our nation have every reason to be grateful and proud of the sacred work the MA team does in caring for our fallen comrades.

Parked just off the nose of the C-130 was a blue Air Force bus. The ramp supervisor said there were about 30 Marines sitting on it, waiting to head out. They waited on the bus

See Chaplain on page 3

America at its best!  
One piece of the puzzle delivering disaster relief

By Colonel Michael R. Boera  
374 Air Expeditionary Wing vice commander

UTAPAO, Thailand – At various times throughout my 23 years in the U.S. Air Force, I have taken the opportunity to write articles for my hometown newspaper in Vermont for my family and friends to read and for home base newspapers where I’ve been assigned.

My editorials included my personal thanks for the support I received during Desert Storm, my perspective of combat air operations over Northern Iraq during Operation Provide Comfort, and my heart-felt thoughts after the September 11, 2001 terrorist attack on America.

Today, I write you from Royal Thai Naval Air Station Utapao where I am deployed in support of Operation Unified Assistance, the humanitarian relief mission in support of the tsunami victims in Thailand, Indonesia and Sri Lanka.

I have made a livelihood of flying F-16 Fighting Falcon combat aircraft and am currently assigned as the 35th Operations Group commander at Misawa Air Base, Japan. A couple of weeks ago, I was preparing to fly a local combat training mission when I received a call from my boss. I was basically told to get some shots and pack my bags because I was being sent to Thailand to help stand up the 374 Air Expeditionary Wing. About 24 hours later, I was landing at Utapao airfield.

The mission of the wing is to provide support to the intra-theater airlift units, mostly flying C-130 Hercules and C-17 Globemaster III aircraft and HH-60 Pave Hawk helicopters, sprinkled around workable

airfields in the affected countries. We are the Air Force piece of Combined Support Force 536, commanded by a U.S. Marine lieutenant general. I have never been involved in a humanitarian relief effort and now I am involved in one rivaling that of any relief effort – ever!

It has been my honor to serve in such an operation. As much as I miss being away from my family and flying the F-16, it gives me great satisfaction to be involved in a relief and recovery operation versus the typical combat operation I am so familiar with, and which usually involves some sort of destruction. This is America at its best!

It is also the America that doesn’t make the headlines very often, or the lead story on our top TV news stations’ telecasts. In fact, this relief operation is probably not the lead story in the United States any longer.

Please keep in mind, the mission continues...

Obviously, I am involved with the U.S. military aspect of the mission. We are but one piece of the puzzle to bring much-needed disaster relief to the victims, but a significant piece at this stage of the effort.

Gradually, we will let civilian governmental and non-governmental organizations take over the bulk of the effort and most of us will return to our home stations. When I do, I hope to pick up where I left off; say “hello” to the family and get back in the cockpit of an F-16 to once again train for combat operations.

Until then, I am proud to be a part of this relief mission. It is America at its best!

Congratulations Retirees

**Jan. 18**  
**Col. D. Foster Bitton**  
Air Education and Training  
Command

**Jan. 19**  
**Frank Cole**  
AETC

**Today**  
**Tech. Sgt. Renita Hatcher**  
Air Force Personnel  
Operations Agency

**Wednesday**  
**Senior Master Sgt.**  
**Dennis Pena**  
AETC

Retirement announcements should be submitted to the Wingspread office by noon Friday two weeks prior to the desired date of publication.  
E-mail announcements to [randolph.retiree.messages@randolph.af.mil](mailto:randolph.retiree.messages@randolph.af.mil) or fax them to 652-5412. For more information, call the Wingspread office at 652-5760.

# Joint team pays respect to fallen comrade

## Chaplain

Continued from Page 2

until all the cargo was loaded onto the aircraft, including the transfer case, the military term for a coffin. It was the standard operating procedure.

The supervisor then went to the Marines to explain what was happening and that as soon as the transfer case was loaded, they would be allowed to board the aircraft. The Marines wanted to join the honor guard formation for the ceremony. The supervisor came over and shared their desires. We looked at one another and without hesitation nodded in unison. In less than a minute, they assembled with us, helmets, armor and weapons included.

As the five-ton truck with the case approached the rear of the C-130, we stood at parade rest, forming two lines straight off the ramp directly under the rear of the aircraft. The air crew, as always, stood in formation with us. We were called to attention.

The truck’s tailgate was lowered, then with care the MA team pulled the flag-laden transfer case from the back of the vehicle. At the command “present arms,” the formation rendered a slow ceremonial salute.

My chaplain assistant and I led the pall bearers up onto the ramps and into the cargo hold of the Hercules. The only other sound piercing the darkness was the auxiliary power unit under the port wing running the C-130’s systems while

it was parked. The detail broke ranks, assembled up the ramps and huddled around the transfer case.

There we were, under the dim lights with the APU humming, looking at the flag, and thinking about the young Soldier beneath it, lying in rest at our feet. It was crowded, and I invited the troops to gather and close in.

I gave some preliminary comments as to how this Soldier gave his life earlier that day. I suspected he had slept in a tent last night with his friends and comrades, ate breakfast with them that morning, and didn’t plan to end his day like this, but he was prepared to, as we all were. For some, the risk was far greater.

I said, “Hear the word of the Lord,” and Airman Avecilla read the 23rd Psalm. I then called for a moment of silence, as I always did, and offered a prayer for his family, the people of his hometown and for our nation.

I prayed for the men and women of his unit who would notice in a striking fashion when his name is no longer called at the next muster. I prayed for the aircrew who would fly this American home. I closed by praying for those U.S. Army MA team members who did what few would want to do and even fewer would talk about, and they did it in a sterling manner. I asked God to bless them.

After the prayer, and a final salute, the detail was dismissed. The entire ceremony lasted five minutes. It is some of the most honorable five minutes I can think of.

I thanked the Marines for participating and they were all thankful for the honor, as all of us always were. We went to the air crew and wished them a safe journey out of the desert

to their next stop, and they were uniquely aware of the most precious cargo they were responsible for.

We had the honor of taking a fallen servicemember and sending him home to family, friends, loved ones and neighbors. In my prayer, I asked God that when this troop finally arrived home to family and was laid to rest that his hometown and his country wouldn’t soon forget the price paid in the flow and making of history.

The troop’s only memorial may become a framed picture carefully set on a piano, coffee table or some other shelf, and maybe 20, 30 or 40 years from now, children, grandchildren and other relatives might see an old photograph in a frame of someone in uniform, and ask who it was. Someone will then say, “Let me tell you about your uncle, your father or your grandfather,” or whoever it may have been. There will always be those who remember. Always.

It struck me later that night of the uniqueness of that particular occasion. I reflected on it at length. That night we had assembled Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, National Guard and reserve members. It was the total package. We were all proud to have been a part of the moment. Whether our uniforms say Air Force, Navy, Army or Marines, they all say “U.S.” – and at the heart of what that means is “us.” One team, one fight.

*(Editor’s note: Chaplain (Maj.) Shane Gaster was deployed to Baghdad International Airport, Iraq, from late May to early September 2004. During the rotation, the chaplain staff conducted memorial services for 106 casualties in 111 days. Chaplain Gaster is the senior Protestant chaplain for the 509th Bomb Wing)*

# Optometry clinic provides variety of services

By Jennifer Valentin  
Wingspread staff writer

Whether people are in need of a new prescription for glasses, or just a routine eye exam, the Randolph Optometry Clinic provides a variety of services.

The optometry clinic staff consists of three doctors and four technicians who help an average of 450 patients a month.

The clinic services are available to active duty servicemembers, who have top priority, followed by TRICARE Prime members and TRICARE standard members, who are booked on a space available basis.

The clinic provides primary care optometry including prescriptions for glasses and evaluations of ocular health to rule out glaucoma, cataracts and other diseases, said Staff Sgt. Bryan Crasher, NCO in charge of optometry.

“The greatest benefit to the active duty members is that we know what their requirements are, such as the need for the two pair of glasses and one gas mask insert, and all of the special optometry assistance our flyers need,” said the sergeant.

By knowing the needs of the servicemember, the clinic is better equipped to provide them quality service at no cost.

“Active duty members can receive comprehensive eye exams and standard issue glasses free of charge at the

optometry clinic,” said Capt. (Dr.) Veronica Barber.

According to optometry officials, the clinic also provides annual dilation exams for diabetic patients.

There are limited services available to contact wearers. Contact wearers can have their existing contact lens prescriptions updated, but they will need to bring a copy of their contact lens prescription and one pair of lenses with them when this is done.

“We can’t fit contacts, so the patient needs to remember to bring their prescription with them during their visit,” said Sergeant Crasher.

Corneal Refractive Surgery informational seminars are also given at the clinic on the first and third Monday of each month at 3 p.m. The seminar discusses the surgery, the risks involved and who is eligible for the surgery. Interested patients should call ahead to make sure the seminar is going to be conducted on the day they wish to attend.

Eye care is just one of the many medical benefits available to servicemembers, said Lt. Col. (Dr.) Steven Stanek. The Randolph Optometry Clinic is convenient and beneficial to patients because it is right on base, taking less time away from work.

To schedule a routine appointment, call the Central Appointments Desk at 652-3432. For more information on the optometry clinic and its services, call 652-5526.



Lt. Col. (Dr.) Steven Stanek checks a patient’s vision in the optometry clinic. (Photo by Steve White)

SAFETY

1<sup>ST</sup>

## Instructor’s inattention ‘stalls’ student’s sortie

It was a beautiful day in southwest Texas and my third sortie of the day. As my student was climbing into the high area, I was taking in the grandeur of the blue sky, the brilliant white clouds and the sun shining down. Although “Stan” was talking, I wasn’t about to let his babbling ruin this pristine moment, and then it happened.

As the seat of my pants felt the initial buffet of an approaching stall, I felt someone grab me by the collar, shake me and yell, “Pay attention!”

I grabbed the stick and throttles as I told Stan I had the aircraft, then in my best instructor pilot voice asked, “What were you doing?”

“A power-on stall,” he replied. “I just briefed it.”

Yes, I’m sure Stan told me he was about to stall the airplane, but as I tuned out that fact to enjoy the day I realized the old adage, “Complacency can kill you.”

It’s as true today as it was when it was new. So, the moral of the story is enjoy the day, but pay attention. Contrary to popular belief, instructors are human too.

*“Safety First” columns, provided by the 12th Flying Training Wing Safety Office, are actual accounts of incidents involving Randolph people. They are provided to encourage everyone in the Randolph community to develop and follow a safety-first mindset.*

## Top honors

Sixteen Senior NCO's, recently selected for the rank of chief master sergeant, were recognized at a Chief Recognition Ceremony at the Fort Sam Houston Club Saturday. The ceremony is an opportunity for leadership and fellow chiefs to recognize the chief selects for reaching the top one percent of the enlisted force. The honorees are (front row from left) Senior Master Sgts. Alan Onufrank, Charles Meador, Nathalie Swisher, Samuel Foster, Clark Andread, John Osborne and Chief Master Sgt. Roderick Hector, (back row from left) Senior Master Sgts. Mark Overton, John O'Neal, Sharon Rhodes, Edward Vargas, Tammy Elliott, Lester Harvey and Terry Warren. Not pictured are Chief Master Sgt. Johanna Oren and Senior Master Sgt. Anthony Patterson. (Photo by Steve White)



# Secretary Roche retires

By Staff Sgt. April Lapetoda  
89th Airlift Wing Public Affairs

ANDREWS AIR FORCE BASE, Md. – Airmen, along with servicemembers from more than 14 nations, bid farewell to the 20th Secretary of the Air Force Tuesday.

Deputy Secretary of Defense Paul Wolfowitz presented Air Force Secretary Dr. James Roche the Department of Defense award for distinguished public service upon his retirement. His wife, Diane, was recognized with the exceptional civilian service award.

Flanked by Airmen with an F/A-22 Raptor in the background, Air Force Chief of Staff Gen. John Jumper was the host of the event and spoke on changes the Air Force has seen under the direction of Secretary Roche. He said the secretary's personal touch affected each Airman's life.

"(Secretary Roche will be remembered for) all he has done for them, for our Air Force and for our nation," the general said.

Mr. Wolfowitz presided over the ceremony and hailed the secretary for his "out of the box" thinking, using the Air Force in a new combat role with the Army and for instilling unique improvements in education for enlisted Airmen.

The secretary was appointed in 2001 and has been responsible for the affairs of the Department of the Air Force, including the organizing, training, equipping, and providing for the welfare of its nearly 370,000 Airmen on active duty, 180,000 Air National Guard and Air Force Reserve Airmen, 160,000 civilians and their families.

Secretary Roche spoke of leadership lessons he learned in his earlier Naval career from Navy Adms. Arliegh Burke and Hyman Rickover in solving complex problems, and how those lessons have stood the test of time. The secretary closed by emotionally reading a verse from the Navy hymn, "Eternal Father, Strong to Save." The alternate verse, which begins, 'Lord guard and guide the men who fly' was written by Mary C. D. Hamilton in 1915.



Air Force Secretary Dr. James G. Roche speaks during his retirement ceremony Tuesday at Andrews AFB. (Photo by Staff Sgt. Amber Whittington)

### NEWS BRIEFS

#### Appointments at WHMC and BAMC

For medical appointments at Brooke Army Medical Center and most Wilford Hall Medical Center clinics, call (210) 916-9900. The only clinics at WHMC retaining direct appointments are Behavioral Health and OB/GYN.

#### Change in Guam Tour Length

Effective Jan. 1, 2006, accompanied tours for military people to Guam will change from the current 24 months to 36 months and unaccompanied tours will change from 15 months to 24 months. Airmen with an assignment to Guam with a reporting date not later than Dec. 31, 2005 will continue to receive short tour credit.

#### Civil Service employee CAC cards

Civil service employees who received a Common Access Card during the initial field testing of the new card in early 2002 will find the cards expiring in 2005. Persons holding these cards need to schedule an appointment to obtain a new CAC within 60 days of the expiration date. Make appointments through e-mail at 12mss.dpc.inproc@randolph.af.mil. Non-appropriated fund and contractor employees must go to the military personnel flight to get their new cards. Call 652-6224, options 1, 2 or 6 for more information.

# Commissioning program available for Airmen

By Staff Sgt. Calandra Battle  
Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps

MAXWELL AIR FORCE BASE, Ala. – Second Lieutenant Christiane Makela was one step away from leaving the Air Force in 2001. At the time, she was a staff sergeant assigned to the 56th Civil Engineer Squadron, Luke Air Force Base, Ariz.

She changed her mind and traded her stripes for gold lieutenant bars thanks to the Airman Education and Commissioning Program.

Lieutenant Makela was commissioned through the Air Force Reserve Officer Training Corps program at Arizona State University in 2004 and is now assigned to the 366th CES, Mountain Home AFB, Idaho.

"It was an opportunity I couldn't afford to pass up," she said. "I was able to go to school full time and not have to worry about financial matters due to the fact that I was still receiving a regular paycheck."

The program offers active-duty enlisted Airmen the opportunity to attend college on a full-time basis, complete degree requirements and earn a commission through Air Force ROTC.

"Airmen selected for this program must pursue one of the Air Force's sought-after technical degrees and join an Air Force ROTC program," said Colonel Steve Wayne, Air Force ROTC national commander.

Airmen selected for the program remain on active duty and are administratively assigned to an Air Force ROTC detachment, he said. In addition to full pay and benefits, they receive a scholarship of up to \$15,000 per year for tuition and fees and an annual textbook allowance of \$600.

Airmen may participate in the program for one to three years, depending on their major, prior academic preparation and age. They attend school year-round except for the one summer they attend field training.

To qualify for this program, Airmen must apply for one of the following majors:

- Meteorology.
- Nursing. Degrees must be accredited by the National League of Nursing or the Commission on Collegiate Nursing Education.
- Foreign languages. Choices limited to Arabic, Chinese, Persian, Russian, Hindi, Pashto, Armenian, Georgian, Azeri, Kazakh, Indonesian, Swahili, Hebrew, French and

Turkish. All other languages will be considered on a case-by-case basis based on the needs of the Air Force.

- Foreign area studies. Options limited to Middle East, Africa, Asia and Russia/Eurasia. Area studies degree programs must include a requirement for foreign language courses in the region of study.

- Mathematics.

- Physics.

- Computer science.

- Engineering. Any program and concentration accredited by the Accreditation Board for Engineering and Technology. All technical majors at the university the applicant plans to attend must be approved by the Air Force Institute of Technology.

The application deadline is March 1, and the selection board meets in April with results released in early May. Those selected will start their studies and Air Force ROTC participation in the fall 2005 academic term.

For eligibility requirements and more information, visit the base education office or go to the AFROTC section of the Air Force Officer and Accessions' military-restricted Web site at <http://afoats.maxwell.af.mil>.

(Courtesy of AETC News Service)

# Changes speed travel time for deployed Airmen

By Senior Airman Shawn Clements  
U.S. Central Command Air Forces-Forward  
Public Affairs

SOUTHWEST ASIA – Airmen deploying to the U.S. Central Command theater in the past knew where they were going to land when boarding Air Mobility Command rotator flights in the United States, but what most of them did not know was exactly how they were going to be routed to their final destination.

Recently, AMC officials briefly froze the rotator system to implement several new processes to increase predictability, efficiency and stability in travel to and from the area. While frozen, the system was temporarily unavailable for travel booking but did not cause anybody to miss needed flights.

The old process did not provide travelers advanced booking from the main transit hub in theater to their final destinations. Airmen reaching the hub were essentially responsible for working with travel planners there to book their own intratheater travel. Since the planners also had limited visibility on Airmen flowing into theater, Airmen often spent days at the hub awaiting transportation.

Additional time en route delayed arrivals at final destinations and in turn held homeward-bound Airmen in place longer. To allow for unpredictable travel time, officials at home station began sending people sooner to ensure they arrived on time.

The resulting backlog of people at the hub stressed support services and created frustration for individual Airmen. Travel time does not “count” toward a person’s 120-day deployment clock that begins when he or she arrives at the deployed location.

To improve the transportation system for the current rotation, planners made major changes to ensure deployments flow well.

*“The main goal of this new plan is to be able to get transient people out to their final deployed location within 12 to 24 hours of landing in theater.”*

**Lt. Col. Robyn Burk**  
*Central Air Force deputy chief of logistics*

The first step was changing the process so transportation schedulers, rather than individual Airmen, are responsible for requesting the most efficient travel arrangements. Similar to booking travel in the civilian world, logistics planners are working toward a “single ticket” system where each Airman will be given full travel routing before he or she departs from home station.

The second step was providing schedulers better visibility on each person moving through the system. To do that required a major change in airlift scheduling processes. Each airman is assigned against an individual unit line number that can be assigned to a specific airframe.

Now, many Airmen will know their full travel plans before leaving home stations. They will be met in an upgraded passenger terminal at the transit hub where they will be provided with their follow-on travel arrangements.

“The main goal of this new plan is to be able to get transient people out to their final deployed location within 12 to 24 hours of landing in theater,” said Lt. Col. Robyn Burk, CENTAF deputy chief of logistics.

To aid in this effort, Air Force officials will designate additional stateside deployment departure terminals each

rotation. Added to the existing hubs of Baltimore and Atlanta are Hurlburt Field, Fla.; Hill Air Force Base, Utah; Travis AFB, Calif.; Whiteman AFB, Mo.; and Lackland AFB, Texas.

The additional departure locations shorten travel time for passengers in other parts of the United States as well as delays that result when heavy baggage must be shipped separately, officials said. It also provides air mobility division officials in theater better advance notice of requirements for intratheater airlift movements.

This additional movement visibility will also make life better for Airmen flowing through the transit hub, officials said. Officials with the 379th Expeditionary Logistics Readiness Squadron have created a system that accounts for each Airman and more smoothly transitions him or her onward.

“When transient people get off the rotator, they now come into a reception control center where we tell them everything they need to know,” said Maj. Max Massey, 379th ELRS commander.

Passengers should hand carry a uniform and overnight items for their stays at the hub, officials said.

Arriving Airmen will be required to leave their bags in a secured area of the reception center while they await their connections, officials said.

Under the improved system, some Airmen will not be routed through the transit hub. Logistics planners have arranged for several rotator flights to go directly from stateside departure points to final locations.

The new initiatives should make the current rotation smoother for most of the nearly 18,000 affected Airmen, Colonel Burk said.

“The process isn’t going to be 100 percent effective in the beginning, but we hope that this will help alleviate the problems,” she said. By the next rotation, she said, the system should work even better.

## Retiring the colors

The Randolph Civil Air Patrol Composite Squadron honor guard folds a presentation flag during the retirement ceremony for Chief Master Sgt. Lincoln Sundman, their squadron commander for the past five years. The CAP cadets learn Air Force traditions and ceremonies as part of their regular curriculum, along with studies of air and space power, professional military opportunities, and practical exercises in search and rescue operations. The squadron is looking for company grade officers to replace departing senior members. For more information, contact Capt. Todd Shields at 652-2224 (Photo by Dave Terry)



# Operation FLAGS

## Children get first hand look at deployment

By Jennifer Valentin  
Wingspread staff writer

As the little girl went from table to table, holding her dad’s hand tight, he whispered to her “This is what I did before I deployed.”

The girl and her dad continued walking and listening as members from the base chapel, family support center, medical group, military equal opportunity office and military personnel flight each covered what services they offer members who are deploying, and what the Airmen should expect when they arrive at their destinations.

This mock deployment line “processed” about 55 base children and youth center members on Jan. 14 as part of the

program Operation Families Learning About Global Support.

Operation FLAGS is a chance for children to experience the deployment process first hand. Programs similar to Operation FLAGS are already in place at other Air Force bases.

The event, sponsored by the family support center, is a simulated deployment processing line where children get the chance to participate and experience what their parent or parents go through before deploying, said Master Sgt. Todd Remington, family support center NCO in charge of readiness.

“Children are sometimes scared of their parent deploying because they don’t really know what goes on when they do,” the sergeant said. “This ‘junior’ deployment line gives children the chance to experience the process their mothers

and fathers have to go through giving them a better understanding of what happens.”

During Operation FLAGS, the children go through a mock deployment processing line with many of the various base agencies their parents would talk with, as well as visit various equipment, uniform and chemical gear displays.

This is the second time Randolph has hosted this event, and officials said it was a great success.

“I’m extremely happy with how things went,” said Sergeant Remington. “We had a lot of people step up to do everything from building the mock mobility folders, to hanging camo nets, to operating the actual deployment functions. We already have plans in the works for the next event.”

# Family support center assists deployed, families

By Jennifer Valentin  
Wingspread staff writer

“Even if it is 2 o’clock in the morning, I can call on the family readiness program personnel,” said Joey Diaz, spouse of a deployed Randolph member. “They are here for Randolph families 24-7.”

The Randolph Family Support Center has the word “support” in its name for a reason – because it takes care of their own, those who are deploying and the ones they will leave behind.

The FSC family readiness program has many programs tailored toward members who are deploying and their families.

“We have a variety of ways we can help those who need it during a difficult time of deployment,” said Master Sgt. Todd Remington, NCO in charge of the family readiness program.

The Hearts Apart program is the most widely used program, said Sergeant Remington. The program allows family members to call the base operator and use a DSN telephone number to contact their loved one who is deployed. The calls are limited to 15 minutes, one time per week, but if an emergency arises, more calls can be authorized.

Another program that is beneficial is the Waiting Families Support Group.

The group gives families a chance to use a support network to talk with other family members who are going through similar situations.

Videophone conferencing is available in a comfortable family environment at the family support center, allowing families and spouses the chance to talk live with their loved one who is TDY or serving in a remote tour assignment. Many overseas and stateside bases offer videophone.

The Air Force Aid Society offers dependents assistance with car care and limited child care.

“The VFW has also been very helpful recently, giving family members donations such as phone cards and Christmas gifts for children of deployed families,” said Sergeant Remington. “Other organizations such as the local chapters of the Girl Scouts and Red Cross have also been helpful, donating a variety of items to our programs and members’ families.”

*“We have a variety of ways we can help those who need it during a difficult time of deployment,”*

**Master Sgt. Todd Remington**  
*Randolph Family Readiness Program*

“With support from different organizations and people, both on base and off, the family readiness program has been successful in meeting the needs of deployed members and their families,” said the sergeant.

The family readiness program is in the process of adding a new program, benefiting members when they return from deployment.

“The program will focus on helping the recently returned member adjust to their everyday lives again,” said the sergeant. “When deployed members return from an assignment, it is sometimes difficult for them to get used to their family and work lives that they left behind. We want to alleviate some of that pressure.”

“My husband has been on a remote tour since May 2004,” said Mary Beth Vaughn. “I have found many different programs and events that the family support center offers very helpful.”

“I am able to talk to my husband every week through the program at the family support center,” said Ms. Vaughn. “The children are able to talk to him, so it relieves a lot of stress we have with him being so far away.”

Ms. Vaughn also takes advantage of the events the center offers, such as Operation FLAGS and movie nights. She also participates in the “Give Parents a Break” program, where spouses of deployed members can have a night out while the base child development center watches their children.

“The family readiness program is a life-saver,” said Ms. Vaughn. “Although I have never had to call Sergeant Remington personally for any help, I know if I ever needed

anything he would be there for me.”

The family readiness program is a sounding board and referral organization for members and their families who need assistance.

“We know where to start looking when someone has a specific need or request, and we pride ourselves on being available 24 hours a day, seven days a week,” said the sergeant.

“When my husband was deployed the time before, we had a family emergency come up,” said Ms. Diaz. “I called Sergeant Remington, and he contacted the Red Cross. They arranged for my husband to come home early so he could be with his family.”

Programs such as Hearts Apart are a big help, because they lend a hand to her and her family and take care of the little errands that need to get done.

The keys to good family readiness include educating the military member, educating their family through a variety of resources, and reminding the member and their family the unit structure of supervisors is able to assist.

“It is important to remember that the member’s unit is there to assist the family,” said Sergeant Remington. “The first sergeants, supervisors and commanders are always willing to give their support, making the separation easier.”

The family readiness program not only lends support on the home front, but is also there when they are needed by a member who is deployed thousands of miles away, said Sergeant Remington.

“When military members are deployed, they often worry about the things they can’t control while away, such as financial issues or school issues,” said the sergeant. “They can contact us and we can reassure them we are here for their family if they need us, because we want them to focus on the mission at hand, rather than worry about things they cannot control at the time. More and more members are deploying to more hostile environments, so they do not need any added stress.”

With San Antonio being a military town, said Sergeant Remington, the family support center welcomes all branches of the military to visit or call and see what they have to offer.

For more information, call Sergeant Remington at 652-5321.

## Light my fire



**John Villagomez stacks firewood at the base equipment checkout building on base. Wood for fireplaces can be purchased at the information, tickets and travel office for \$2.50 for four pieces. A 1/4 cord is \$35; a 1/2 cord is \$80; and a full cord is \$150. (Photo by Jennifer Valentin)**

# Residents reminded of base rules

By Jennifer Valentin  
Wingspread staff writer

The 12th Security Forces Squadron wants to inform Randolph residents of the rules for using electric or gas powered bicycles, scooters, skateboards, mopeds and motorcycles.

- Electric or gas motorized scooters or motorized bicycles:**
- cannot exceed 40cc engine capacity
  - cannot exceed 25 mph
  - must have two wheels in contact with the ground at all times
  - have to allow the driver to sit or stand
  - must have the ability to be operated by human power alone
  - are authorized on Randolph in residential areas, where the speed limit does not exceed 15 mph
  - operator must wear an approved bicycle helmet
  - when operated at night, must be equipped with a lamp that emits a white light visible from a distance of 500 feet and a red reflector on the rear visible from a distance of 50 to 300 feet. A red light on the rear of the vehicle must be visible from a distance of 500 feet in addition to the red reflector. Reflectors should be uncovered at all times

“Since the popularity of motorized scooters and bicycles has risen recently, we have seen more of them on base,” said Mr. Vickers. “So we want to make sure when they are being used that they can be seen, especially around the busy housing areas and at night.”

- Manual, electric, or gas powered skateboards rollerblades and rollerskates:**
- cannot be operated in vehicular traffic areas such as streets, service drives and parking lots, or around areas such as the bowling alley, base exchange and commissary

- must be used with safety helmets
  - are highly recommended to be used with knee pads, elbow pads and wrist guards
- Pocket bikes (miniature motorcycles) are not authorized to be operated on Randolph. According to Texas Traffic Laws, these bikes are not street legal.
- Racing carts, go carts and all-terrain vehicles are not authorized on Randolph, except for use by on-duty security forces personnel.

- Electric or gas motorized mopeds:**
- must have less than 50cc engine capacity
  - must have no more than two-brake horsepower
  - must have the ability to be operated by human power alone
  - must have the required equipment, including a brake, reflector, head lamp and rear lamp
  - driver must be at least 15 years old and hold a valid moped license
  - operator must wear a helmet meeting the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard

- Motorcycles:**
- must exceed a 50cc engine capacity
  - must be able to exceed 30 mph
  - must be a two or three wheeled vehicle
  - must have an exhaust system, a tail lamp, stop lamp, licenses plate lamp, rear red reflector, head lamp, serial or vehicle identification number, horn, mirror, steering, brakes and tires
  - operators and passengers must wear a protective helmet – helmets must meet the Federal Motor Vehicle Safety Standard #218 (FMVSS-218) and be properly worn and fastened
  - operators and passengers to wear a brightly colored or contrasting vest or jacket as an outer upper garment during the day and reflective during the hours of limited visibility; the

- outer upper garment should be clearly visible and not covered
- operators and passengers must wear long-sleeved shirts or jackets, full-fingered motorcycle gloves or mittens, and long trousers
  - operators and passengers must wear sturdy footwear - leather boots or over-the-ankle shoes are strongly encouraged
  - motorcycle operators must have a valid driver’s license with a motorcycle endorsement and either a valid Motorcycle Safety Foundation course completion card or a temporary pass in their possession for legal operation of a motorcycle on Randolph

- Personal assistance mobility device (motorized wheelchair):**
- must be a two non-tandem wheeled device designed for transporting one person
  - must be self-balancing and propelled by an electric propulsion system with a average power of 750 watts or one horsepower

“Personal assistance mobility devices are designed to assist the handicap or elderly, and they are allowed on base as long as they follow the Texas Transportation Code,” said Robert Vickers, 12th Security Forces Squadron.

- Battery operated neighborhood electric vehicles:**
- are authorized for use on Randolph, but must be operated by a licensed driver

“Vehicles that exceed the listed specifications are also not authorized to be operated on Randolph,” said Mr. Vickers. “We want everyone to be safe on base, so when you operate any of these modes of transportation, please be sure to keep the regulations in mind.”

For more information, call 652-5509.

# Auto skills center provides services, equipment

By Karen Krull  
12th Services Division

Professional vehicle service can be expensive, and do-it-yourself methods can be intimidating for the inexperienced. The Randolph Auto Skills Center is available to help meet customers’ auto repair needs.

Located in Building 873, the auto skills center is a service provided for base members to alleviate the time, expense and concerns of taking a vehicle to an unknown mechanic. At the center, customers will find a variety of diagnostic tools and equipment, as well as a staff of experts available to assist them in accomplishing their auto repairs.

Tom Cook, manager of the center, encourages people to try the newest piece of equipment, the Accutron On Board Diagnostic tool.

“This tool is free of charge and can be used to diagnose problems on most 1984 or newer vehicles that are approved

for use on U.S. highways,” said Mr. Cook.

Once a problem has been identified, the staff can help customers use the auto skills center’s “Mitchell On Demand” computer software program to provide them with an industry standard estimate on how long the repair would normally take and approximately how much it should cost, said Mr. Cook.

If customers decide to do the repair themselves, the program can give them illustrations of their vehicle’s engine and step-by-step, printed instructions on how to do the repairs. In addition, the center can order any parts customers need which normally arrive within an hour.

The facility has sixteen repair stalls, six of which have lifts for oil changes and other maintenance. The indoor stalls are heated during cold weather.

Other key equipment available includes an alignment machine, a machine used for low cost recovery and replacement of freon, battery charger and a machine for

removing and replacing tires. Also, customers can use the strut machine, drill press, parts washer, rotor turner, drum machine, bench grinder, tire balancing, hydraulics press and engine stands.

The base facility is environmentally friendly with a self-contained drainage system. Customers can use the center to recycle used oil, filters, anti-freeze and shop rags. All necessary safety equipment is available, including eyewash stations in case of an emergency.

“The auto skills center is here so the people can work on their car in a safe environment,” said Mr. Cook. “The staff can order any parts needed and coach enthusiasts through their tasks.”

Auto skills employees have Automotive Safety Excellence certification and provide active duty, retirees, dependents, and DoD civilian employees with a well-maintained, well-stocked facility.

For more information, call 652-2952.

## SPORTS BRIEFS

### *Weight Training for beginners*

The Weight Training for Beginners class will be held Monday and Wednesday. The class teaches students the benefits of weight training for overall fitness and health.

The free two-session class is held in the fitness center conference room from 3-4 p.m. All Department of Defense ID card-holders may attend.

### *Randolph Roadrunners Volkssport Club*

The Randolph Roadrunners Volkssport Club in conjunction with New Balance Shoes is sponsoring an American Volkssport Association 10K walk Feb. 6, with a start time from 8 a.m. to noon, finishing at 3 p.m. The walk starts at Amerisuites Hotel, 7615 Jones Maltsberger Rd.

For more information, call Ellen Ott at 525-8574.

### *Golf lessons*

To make a personal appointment with swing doctors Brian Cannon and Charles Bishop, call 652-4653.